

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 was amended to define more specifically the features of the claimed invention. The support for the amendment reciting a total value of distinctness of image is found on page 10, lines 11 to 15 and page 29, item (3).

Some editorial amendments were made in Claims 1, 5 to 8. No new matter was introduced.

New Claims 9 to 10 are supported by page 17, line 25 of the present specification.

New Claims 11 to 12 are supported by page 15, lines 19 to 20 of the present specification.

New Claims 13 to 16 are supported by page 10, lines 5 to 20 of the present specification and items (1) to (4) on page 19 bridging to page 20 of the present specification.

New Claim 17 is supported by the description on page 14, line 25 bridging to page 15, line 2 of the present specification.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (US 6,731,363).

The Office Action describes:

Nakamura et al. teach an anti-reflection film comprising a transparent substrate having on one side an anti-glare hardcoat layer with a thickness of 0.5 to 10 microns, formed from a resin cured by ionizing radiation and matt particles with an average particle size of 1.0 to 5.0 microns that may be selected from the group listed at Col. 7, lines 49-55, which includes silica particles and crosslinked polysiloxane particles, and are preferable transparent, wherein Nakamura et al. further teach that two or more kinds of particulate material may be utilized as the matting particles and that finer particles may also be incorporated into the layer having a particle size of 0.1-1 microns to impart internal scattering property to the layer (Abstract; Col. 1, line 52-Col.2, line 3; Col. 3, lines 1-19; Col. 6, lines 46-54; Col. 7, lines 11-67; Col. 8, lines 1-7).

From this it is reasoned that one having ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to utilize both silica particles and crosslinked polysiloxane particles in the anti-glare layer (Item 2 on Page 2 of the Office Action).

Applicants disagree.

Nakamura et al. disclose to use amorphous silica particles, TiO_2 particles, Al_2O_3 particles, cross-linked poly(methyl methacrylate), cross-linked polystyrene particles, melamine resin particles, benzoguanamine resin particles, and cross-linked polysiloxane particles as the particulate matting agent (Column 7, lines 49-55 of Nakamura et al.). However, Nakamura et al. do

not teach or suggest that a combination of specifically defined fine particles of silica and silicone resin as claimed in the presently claimed invention exhibits a surprisingly excellent effect for anti-glare property in their antiglare layer.

Nakamura et al. only disclose to use cross-linked polystyrene particles in the Examples as the particulate matting agent. The use, of particles of polysiloxane or any silicone resin to say nothing of the use of any combination of particles of silica and silicone resins is not disclosed in the Nakamura et al.'s Examples.

The presently claimed invention is based on the finding by the inventors of the present invention, as the result of inventive studies, that a hard coat film exhibiting unexpectedly more excellent distinctness of image by the transmission method and smaller specular glossiness than those of conventional films could be obtained when a combination of fine particles of silica and fine particles of a silicone resin and, preferably, a combination of fine particles of silica having the average diameter in a specific range and fine particles of a silicone resin having the average diameter in a specific range, was introduced into a hard coat layer each in a specific relative

amount and the object of the present invention could be achieved with the film (Page 4, lines 1 to 11 of the present specification).

Particularly by use of the combination of fine particles of silica and fine particles of silicone resin as defined in claim 1, particles of silicone resins tend to be present more densely in the vicinity of the surface layer of the hard coat layer and the anti-glare film having the excellent distinctness of image measured by the transmission method and the small specular glossiness can be obtained (Page 15, lines 4 to 7 of the present specification).

As noted above, Nakamura et al. do not direct one to the requirements of the present claims. Nor does Nakamura et al. disclose any data of or other reason to expect the distinctness of image by the transmission method of the present invention in their Examples. The particulate matting agent in Nakamura et al. is considered basically to have a particle size of larger than the thickness of the anti-glare layer and to act to form a surface roughness (Column 6, lines 50 to 52 and FIG. 1 of Nakamura et al.). Such a method of forming a surface roughness by mixing a filler in a hard coat layer is referred to on page 2,

line 19 bridging to page 2, line 1. Therefore, as far as the method for obtaining the surface roughness by incorporation of a particle size of larger than the thickness of the anti-glare layer are concerned, the method described in Nakamura et al. belongs to the conventional method.

The effort by the present inventors to find a very specific combination of fine particles of silica and fine particles of silicone resin particles as claimed in the presently claimed invention was based on tremendous inventive efforts which could not be referred to as a routine experimentation. No one of ordinary skill would be motivated to utilize the particular combination of silica particles and silicone resin particles as defined in the presently claimed invention, from the disclosure of Nakamura et al. in column, lines 49-55 of Nakamura et al. and the Examples which only disclose the use of cross-linked polystyrene particles.

With regard to the disclosure of "another particulate agent finer than the above-cited matting agent" which may further be incorporated into the antiglare layer or other layers which is disclosed in column 8, lines 1 to 7 of Nakamura et al. and referred to on page 2, lines 8 to 9 of the Office Action,

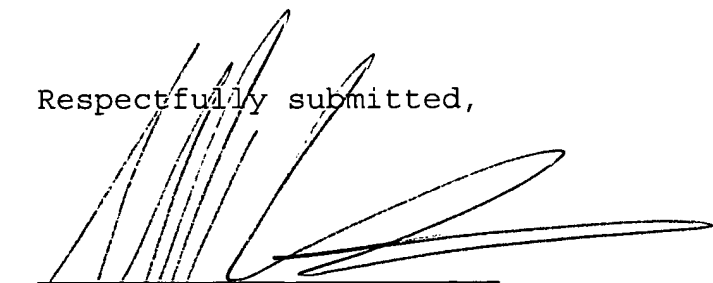
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Nakamura et al. teach that these particles do not contribute to the anti-glare property, but imparts internal scattering property to the layer. Nakamura et al. do not teach or suggest specifically the kind or characteristics of the finer particles. The silicone resin particles in the presently claimed invention are particles having an important purpose for imparting anti-glare property in combination with the fine particles of silica for the hard coat layer of the presently claimed invention. Therefore, "another particulate agent finer than the above-cited matting agent" disclosed in Nakamura et al. are not relevant to the silicone resin particles of the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present invention is not shown or suggested by the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

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